



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



Page 9

THE WEST DECK

ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

WEEKLY SPECIALS

OPEN HOURS 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM

RESERVATIONS@THEWESTDECK.COM TEL: 587-2667 SPECIALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



MARGARITA
MONDAY

Starting at \$10



TACO TUESDAY

Beef, Chicken or Shrimp
Tacos starting at \$15



WING
WEDNESDAY

By the dozen \$18



Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

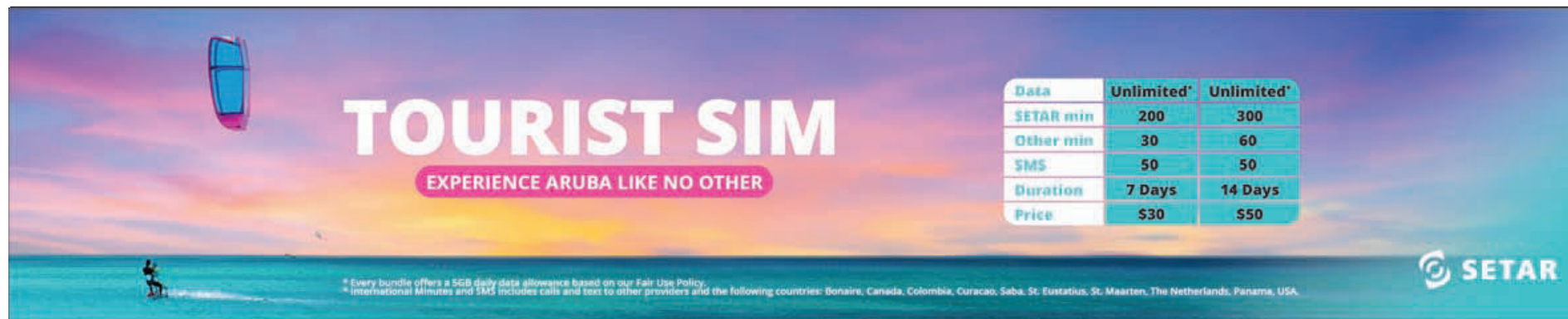
Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM

Full Service Bar

Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com





TOURIST SIM

EXPERIENCE ARUBA LIKE NO OTHER

Data	Unlimited*	Unlimited*
SETAR min	200	300
Other min	30	60
SMS	50	50
Duration	7 Days	14 Days
Price	\$30	\$50



* Every bundle offers a 5GB daily data allowance based on our Fair Use Policy.
 * International Minutes and SMS includes calls and text to other providers and the following countries: Bonaire, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, The Netherlands, Panama, USA.

Federal authorities plan operation in Minnesota focusing on Somali immigrants, AP source says

By **MIKE BALSAMO** and **STEVE KARNOWSKI**
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Federal authorities are preparing a targeted immigration enforcement operation in Minnesota that would primarily focus on Somali immigrants living unlawfully in the U.S., a move that comes as President Donald Trump has escalated rhetoric about the state's Somali community, according to a person familiar with the planning.

The operation could begin in the coming days and is expected to zero in on people in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area who have final orders of deportation, the person said. Teams of immigration agents would spread across the Twin Cities in what the person described as a directed, high-priority sweep, though the plans remain subject to change.

The prospect of an immigration operation is likely to deepen tensions in Minnesota as Trump has become increasingly focused on people of Somali descent living in the U.S., saying recently that they "have caused a lot of trouble," rhetoric that community leaders say has inflamed tensions and revived fears of profiling.

Trump said during a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday that he did not want Somali immigrants in the country, saying they are too reliant on the U.S. social safety net and add little to the nation. "They contribute nothing. I don't want them in our country," he said. "Their country is no good for a reason."

Minnesota has the nation's largest Somali community. Many fled the long civil war



Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey talks during a news conference after winning a third term in the city's ranked-choice voting election, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press.

in their east African country and were drawn to the state's welcoming social programs.

Hundreds of people are expected to be targeted in the operation, the person said.

As with previous immigration operations, so-called incidental arrests are possible, meaning people who aren't targeted but lack legal status could also be detained if encountered during the sweep, the person said.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations that have not been publicly disclosed. The operation was first reported by The New York Times.

Minneapolis police won't help with immigration enforcement

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said on Tuesday that the city's police officers, many of whom are Somali, will not work with any federal agents doing immigration

enforcement, saying "it's not their job."

"Targeting Somali people means that due process will be violated, mistakes will be made, and let's be clear, it means that American citizens will be detained for no other reason than the fact that they look like they are Somali," he said. "That is not now and will never be a legitimate reason."

Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said the agency would not discuss "future or potential operations."

"Every day, ICE enforces the laws of the nation across the country. What makes someone a target of ICE is not their race or ethnicity, but the fact that they are in the country illegally," McLaughlin said.

Trump ramps up criticism of Somalis

Trump and other officials in his administration have used increasingly harsh language in recent days against Somalis living in the

U.S., after a conservative news outlet, City Journal, claimed that taxpayer dollars from defrauded government programs have flowed to the Somali group al-Shabab.

Last month, Trump said he was terminating Temporary Protected Status for Somali migrants living in Minnesota, a legal safeguard against deportation for immigrants from certain countries. A report produced for Congress in August put the number of Somalis covered by the program at just 705 nationwide.

Minnesota Democratic Gov. Tim Walz said Tuesday that anyone committing fraud should go to prison, but he criticized the Trump administration's actions.

"Sitting on the sidelines and throwing out accusations and let's be very clear, demonizing an entire population and lying to people about the safety and security of this state is beneath that," said the 2024 Dem-

ocratic vice presidential candidate.

Trump has claimed immigrants from Somalia were "completely taking over the once great State of Minnesota" and has demeaned Walz, the Democratic vice presidential nominee last year.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a social media post Monday that his agency was "investigating allegations that under the feckless mismanagement of the Biden Administration and Governor Tim Walz, hardworking Minnesotans' tax dollars may have been diverted to the terrorist organization Al-Shabaab."

Nearly all Somalis in Minnesota are citizens

Jaylani Hussein, a Somali American who is executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said his group has heard of "less than a dozen" immigration arrests within the local Somali community in recent days.

But Hussein said around 95% of Somalis in Minnesota are U.S. citizens, so the numbers of those at earlier stages of the immigration process are a "pretty small" proportion of the community. He said they estimate that 50% of the community was born in the U.S.

"We believe this is political rhetoric and an attack against our community," Hussein said.

"But additional ICE agents means additional pressure on the wider immigrant community," he said, referring to Hispanics and other Africans.

Hussein said the reported crackdown plan is yet another example of the Trump administration "demonizing the Muslim community." □

Supreme Court likely to rule in favor of abortion opponents in challenge to state investigation

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court seemed likely on Tuesday to side with a faith-based pregnancy center raising First Amendment concerns about an investigation into whether it misled people to discourage abortions. The facilities often known as “crisis pregnancy centers” have been on the rise in the U.S., especially since the Supreme Court overturned abortion as a nationwide right in 2022. Most Republican-controlled states have since started enforcing bans or restrictions on abortion, and some have steered tax dollars to the centers. The conservative majority court has given abortion opponents some high-profile wins in recent years, but the free-speech arguments at the center of Tuesday’s case also drew support from groups like the American Civil Liberties Union. The dispute started in New Jersey, when Democratic attorney general Matthew Platkin’s consumer-protection division sent a subpoena to First Choice Women’s Resource Centers for details about donors and other information. The state said it was probing whether the centers misled women into thinking they offered abortions so they could steer them toward having their babies instead. First Choice pushed back, arguing the investigation was baseless and the demand for donor lists threatened their First Amendment rights. They tried to challenge the subpoena in federal court, but a judge found the case wasn’t yet far enough along. An appeals court agreed. First Choice then turned to the Supreme Court, where a majority of the justices seemed to agree that they should be able to challenge the subpoena in federal court.



With flowers in the foreground, construction on the front of the U.S. Supreme Court continues Monday, Nov. 24, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press.

“You don’t think it might have an effect on potential future donors to the organization, to know that their name, phone number, address, et cetera, could be disclosed?” a dubious Chief Justice John Roberts asked an attorney for New Jersey. The state argued that the information would only have been used to ask donors whether they had been deceived about First Choice’s services. An attorney for New Jersey, Sundee Iyer, said free-speech rights aren’t at risk because the group has not even been required to turn over any information yet. A court order is required to enforce the subpoena. Conservatives on the court seemed skeptical, as did liberal justice Elena Kagan. “An ordinary person, one of the funders for this organization or any similar organization, presented with this subpoena ... is not going to take that as very reassuring,” Kagan said. New Jersey also argued that a ruling in favor of First Choice could allow a rush lawsuits from any of the thousands of businesses that get similar subpoenas. “Federal courts would potentially be inundated,” Iyer said. An attorney for the Trump administration, which

weighed in to support First Choice, countered that any impact would be relatively small since the decision would only apply to groups with similar First Amendment arguments. First Choice said access to federal court is important in cases where government investigators are accused of misusing state power, and the ACLU agreed that subpoenas seeking donor information can scare away supporters even before they’re enforced. Erin Hawley, an attorney for the conservative Christian legal group Alliance Defending Freedom, said state investigations can hurt advocacy groups with unpopular points of view. □

WACKY WAHOO'S

**Your first choice for locally caught fish and seafood on the island.
Very reasonably priced, exciting menu and no service charge added
to your bill.**



**We are open from Monday - Saturday from 5.30pm - 10pm.
No reservation required! We operate on a first come first serve system.**

**Located within walking distance from the High Rise hotels at Palm Beach #33.
For more information call +297-586.7333**

Bulgaria's government withdraws controversial budget after major protests

By VESELIN TOSHKOV

Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Bulgaria's government said Tuesday it is withdrawing a controversial budget proposal after an evening demonstration drew tens of thousands of peaceful participants that was later marred by clashes between a much smaller group of masked men and police.

Opposition and business groups have warned that plans for higher taxes, increased social security contributions and spending increases could hurt investment and expand the shadow economy as the country prepares to join the eurozone at the start of next year. The center-right government of Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov first promised to withdraw the draft for thorough revision after protests last week, but later backtracked, sparking protests in the capital, Sofia, and other major cities on Monday night. Organizers said that 50,000 people rallied in Sofia.

Protesters, many of them young Bulgarians, called



Protesters prepare to clash with police during a rally against austerity measures in next year's draft budget, in Sofia, Monday, Dec 1, 2025.

for the government to revise the draft budget or step down.

"We will not allow ourselves to be lied to; we will not allow ourselves to be robbed," people chanted at the protest in Sofia. Banners included slogans like: "Young Bulgaria without the Mafia."

Bulgarian President Rumen

Radev, an opponent of the government who hails from the political left, weighed in on the side of the protesters in a televised address to the nation on Tuesday evening. He said changes were needed that "will lead to the rule of law and the restoration of statehood."

"The government is disgraced. Resignation is ur-

gent. Early elections are the only way forward," Radev said.

He urged Bulgarians "not to miss the opportunity to change Bulgaria," while also calling for "unity, will and wisdom to preserve peace from provocations." Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Zhelyazkov listed several changes that will

Associated Press.

be made, including a review of the investment program, and did not rule out the possibility of entering 2026 with an extended budget from this year.

"We will do what is necessary to ensure that the budget is consensual," Zhelyazkov said after a government meeting.

He said that the government is ready for compromises but would not bow to demands to step down.

Mario Bikarski, senior Eastern and Central Europe analyst at the risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft, predicated that redoing the budget "will be rocky with increased scrutiny from unions, business groups and the public."

"There is broad consensus about the need for fiscal prudence," he added in emailed comments. "However, repeated attempts to increase taxes are likely to inflame social tensions further." Organizers had urged demonstrators to keep Monday's protest peaceful, warning that provocations were possible and calling on anyone witnessing such acts to record them. □

Indonesia to repatriate 2 convicted Dutch drug traffickers, including one on death row

By EDNA TARIGAN

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —

Indonesia and the Netherlands on Tuesday agreed to repatriate two Dutch nationals convicted on drug offences in Indonesia, including one facing the death penalty and another serving a life sentence.

The agreement was signed by officials in both Jakarta and Amsterdam following a request by the Dutch king and foreign ministry for the release of the men, both of whom are in poor health, according to Indonesia's senior law minister, Yusril Ihza Mahendra.

Mahendra, who signed the agreement at a ceremony in Jakarta, said the request was approved by Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, and that he ex-

pected the men to be returned to the Netherlands on Dec. 8.

Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel also signed

it at a separate event in Amsterdam, witnessed by delegations from both countries. The prisoner on death row, Siegfried Mets,



Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Legal, Human Rights, Immigration and Correctional Affairs Yusril Ihza Mahendra, right, and Netherlands Ambassador to Indonesia Marc Gerritsen, left, show the document during the signing ceremony the practical arrangement between the government of Indonesia and Netherlands in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025.

Associated Press.

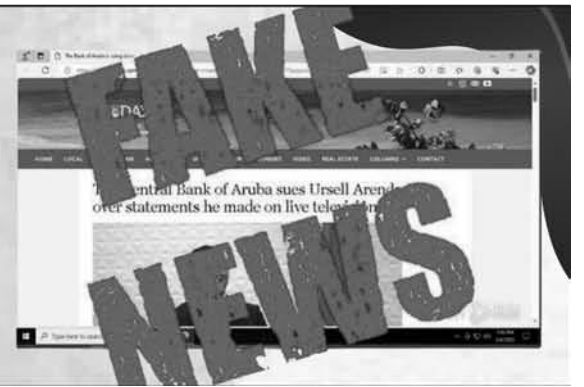
74, was convicted of involvement in the shipment of 600,000 ecstasy pills from the Netherlands to Indonesia in February 2008. He has been held in a prison in Jakarta for 17 years. The other man, Ali Tokman, 65, was taken into custody at Surabaya airport in December 2014 after customs officers found slightly more than 6 kilograms (13.5 pounds) of brown-colored MDMA, a psychoactive drug. He has served 11 years of his life sentence. The Dutch Ambassador to Indonesia, Marc Gerritsen, said the Netherlands had made the request for humanitarian reasons and is "very grateful that Indonesia allows these two Dutch detainees to be closer to their families." He said the agreed prison transfer il-

lustrates the good cooperation between the two countries in the areas of justice and law. Indonesia under President Prabowo's administration has sent several foreign prisoners home under bilateral agreements with each of their countries. They included a Filipino who faced the death penalty for drugs, five Australians convicted of heroin trafficking, and two British nationals who also faced death penalty and life sentence for smuggling drugs to Indonesia. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime says Indonesia is a major drug smuggling hub despite having some of the strictest drug laws in the world, in part because international drug syndicates target its young population. □

Be aware of scams on social media!

Don't click on sponsored ads that are using Aruba Today's likeness. Visit only our official Facebook Page, Aruba Today News or our website, www.arubatoday.com.

If you encounter any problems, we are here to help: news@arubatoday.com



More than 1,300 dead from floods in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand as rescue efforts intensify

By BINSAR BAKKARA and
NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

BATANG TORU, Indonesia
(AP) — Emergency crews

raced to reach survivors and recover more bodies Tuesday as the death toll from last week's catastrophic floods and landslides surged past 1,300 in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, with nearly 900 people missing.

Days of heavy monsoon rains inundated vast areas, leaving thousands stranded and many clinging to rooftops and trees waiting for help. The flooding and landslides killed at least 1,338 people: 744 in Indonesia, 410 in Sri Lanka, 181 in Thailand and three in Malaysia, authorities said Tuesday. Sri Lanka's president, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, said it's too early to determine the exact number of dead in his country.

In Indonesia, the hardest-hit nation, rescuers struggled to access villages on Sumatra island, where roads have been washed out and bridges collapsed. At least 551 people remain missing, according to the country's National Disaster Management Agency. Helicopters and boats have been deployed, but officials warn that worsening weather and damaged infrastructure are slowing operations.

Indonesia's forests in ruins. Floods and landslides in North Sumatra carried away millions of cubic meters of felled timber, officials said, sparking public concern that illegal logging may have contributed to the disaster.

Batang Toru, the lush forested area, has turned into a wasteland of broken



Men stand on logs swept away by flash flood in Batang Toru, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025.

logs and shattered homes. Roads have vanished, replaced by rivers of sludge. "This is not just a natural disaster, it's a manmade crisis," said Rianda Purba from the Indonesian Environmental Forum, an activist group.

"Deforestation and unchecked development have stripped Batang Toru of its resilience. Without urgent restoration and stricter protections, these floods will become the new normal."

Survivors desperately search for their loved ones. A week after flash floods and landslides swept through West Sumatra, survivors were still awaiting news of their loved ones. Zahari Sutra held photos of his missing wife and two daughters aged 4 and 2, as he pleaded for help with rescuers in Sikumbang village in Agam district. "Other victims have been found ... why not my family?"

The 38-year-old farmer said

he dropped his motorbike and ran for higher ground when rising waters blocked his path to home last Thursday. He said the raging current swallowed his home. He waded through the water shouting for his wife and daughters, but there was only silence.

As darkness fell, he found his eldest, a 5-year-old girl, covered in mud, but safe. Fearing more floods, Sutra clung to a lychee tree with his daughter until dawn, when the full scope of the disaster was revealed: all homes were gone or buried under tons of mud.

"I carried my daughter and went for help," he said, his voice breaking. "My only prayer is to find my wife and children."

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his condolences for victims' families on Tuesday and said the U.N. is "in close contact with authorities in all four countries and stands ready to support re-

lief and response efforts," according to spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric.

Sri Lanka counts the dead and Thailand begins clean-up

Military-led rescue teams in Sri Lanka scoured flood-devastated areas for 336 people still missing in the aftermath of Cyclone Dityah, the Disaster Management Center said Tuesday. Roads were blocked by landslides and bridges have collapsed, making access difficult.

In the central city of Kandy, residents struggled without running water, relying instead on bottled water collected from natural springs. Authorities warned that conditions could worsen as more rain is forecast in the coming days.

President Dissanayake, speaking in a meeting with government officials, described the disaster as the worst to strike the country in recent history, saying it remains impossible to deter-

mine the full scale of casualties. He warned that the death toll is likely far higher than current figures.

He said that government agencies were working to reach isolated communities.

Selladurai Yogaraj, 35, a resident of Sarasavigama, said he lost his entire family: mother, wife and two children. "I can't even think what life is going to be like," he said.

Another man, Duraikannu Mahoharan, said he lost his wife, daughter and a house. "Only my sons and I survived. Now I am staying with my brother," he said.

At least three people were confirmed dead in Malaysia after floods left stretches of northern Perlis state underwater, authorities said. About 6,000 people sought shelter in emergency centers.

In southern Thailand, clean-up has begun on streets and in buildings after massive floods affected more than 1.5 million households and 3.9 million people. Authorities are working to restore infrastructure, including water and electricity.

Thailand's Interior Ministry said Monday it would set up public kitchens to provide freshly cooked food to affected residents. The first batch of compensation payments of 239 million baht (\$7.4 million) is set to be distributed to 26,000 people, government spokesperson Siripong Angkasakulkiat also said Monday.

Pakistan and India spar over overflight permission. Pakistan on Tuesday accused India of blocking a military aircraft carrying humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka, an allegation New Delhi swiftly rejected. □

Former Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández freed after Trump pardon

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN**
and **MIKE CATALINI**

Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) —

Former Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández, sentenced last year to 45 years in prison for his role in a drug trafficking operation that moved hundreds of tons of cocaine to the United States, was released from prison following a pardon from President Donald Trump, officials confirmed Tuesday.

Hernández was released Monday from U.S. Penitentiary Hazelton in West Virginia, a spokesperson for the Federal Bureau of Prisons told The Associated Press.

The bureau's online inmate records also reflected his release.

The release of Hernández, a former U.S. ally whose conviction prosecutors said exposed the depth of cartel influence in Honduras, comes just days after the country's presidential election. Trump defended the decision aboard Air Force One on Sunday, saying Hondurans believed Hernández had been "set up," even as prosecutors argued he protected drug traffickers who moved hundreds of tons of cocaine through the country. The pardon also unfolds against the backdrop of Trump's aggressive counter-narcotics push that has triggered intense controversy across Latin America. In recent months, U.S. forces have repeatedly struck vessels they say were ferrying drugs north, a series of lethal maritime attacks that the administration argues are lawful acts of war against drug cartels and that critics say test the limits of international law and amount to a pressure campaign on Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro. The Trump administration has carried out 21 known strikes on vessels accused of carrying drugs, killing at least 83 people. The administration has justified the attacks as a neces-



Honduras' President Juan Orlando Hernandez speaks during the opening ceremony of the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, Monday Nov. 1, 2021.

Associated Press.

sary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States and asserted the U.S. is engaged in an "armed conflict" with drug cartels, similar to the war against al-Qaida following the Sept. 11 attacks. Hernández's wife applauds his release.

Ana García thanked Trump for pardoning her husband via the social platform X early Tuesday. Speaking to reporters Tuesday outside her home in Tegucigalpa, she thanked Trump for pardoning her husband and drew a parallel between the two men.

"Today the whole world realizes that, like they did with President Donald Trump, the same Southern District, the same prosecutor created a political case," García said.

She said Hernández called her Monday evening to say he was in the office of the prison head and had been told he will be released. García said Hernández is in an undisclosed location for his safety, but that he plans to address the Honduran people on Wednesday.

Hernández's attorney Renato Stabile said in an emailed statement he also would not share the former president's current loca-

tion.

García said the process to seek a pardon began several months ago with a petition to the office of pardons. Then on Oct. 28, Hernández's birthday, he wrote a letter to Trump. He announced he was pardoning Hernández last Friday.

"My husband is the president who has done the most for Honduras in the fight against organized crime," García said.

Trump's rationale for the pardon

Trump was asked Sunday why he pardoned Hernández.

"I was asked by Honduras, many of the people of Honduras," Trump told reporters traveling with him on Air Force One.

"The people of Honduras really thought he was set up, and it was a terrible thing," he said.

"They basically said he was a drug dealer because he was the president of the country.

And they said it was a Biden administration setup," Trump said. "And I looked at the facts and I agreed with them."

Stabile, the attorney, said Hernández is glad the "ordeal" is over.

"On behalf of President Hernández and his family

I would like to thank President Trump for correcting this injustice," Stabile said. Democratic lawmakers expressed condemnation and disbelief that Trump issued the pardon.

"They prosecute him, find him guilty of selling narcotics through these cartels into the United States. Can you think of anyone more reprehensible than that? Selling drugs to this country, finding more victims by the day," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois in a speech on the Senate floor.

"This is not an action by a President trying to keep America safe from narcotics," Durbin added.

The Trump administration has declared drug cartels to be unlawful combatants and has carried out strikes in the Caribbean against boats the White House says were carrying drugs.

The case against the former president Hernández was arrested at the request of the United States in February 2022, weeks after current President Xiomara Castro took office.

Two years later, Hernández was sentenced to 45 years in prison in a New York federal courtroom for taking bribes from drug traffickers so they could safely move

some 400 tons (360 metric tons) of cocaine north through Honduras to the United States.

Hernández maintained throughout that he was innocent and the victim of revenge by drug traffickers he had helped extradite to the United States.

During his sentencing, federal Judge P. Kevin Castel said the punishment should serve as a warning to "well educated, well dressed" individuals who gain power and think their status insulates them from justice when they do wrong.

Hernández portrayed himself as a hero of the anti-drug trafficking movement who teamed up with American authorities under three U.S. presidential administrations to reduce drug imports.

But the judge said trial evidence proved the opposite and that Hernández employed "considerable acting skills" to make it seem that he strongly opposed drug trafficking while he deployed his nation's police and military to protect the drug trade. Hernández is not guaranteed a quick return to Honduras.

Immediately after Trump announced his intention to pardon Hernández, Honduras Attorney General Johel Zelaya said via X that his office was obligated to seek justice and put an end to impunity.

He did not specify what charges Hernández could face in Honduras. There were various corruption-related investigations of his administration across two terms in office that did not lead to charges against him. Castro, who oversaw Hernández's arrest and extradition to the U.S., will remain in office until January.

The pardon promised by Trump days before Honduras' presidential election injected a new element into the contest that some said helped the candidate from his National Party Nasry Asfura as the vote count proceeded Tuesday. □



ARUBA

Beach Club Resort

Discover Aruba Beach Club, a family-friendly resort right on Aruba's white-sand beach.

For more information, visit our website arubabeachresort.com or contact our sales team today!

At Aruba Beach Club, your family can enjoy comfort, community, and affordability with timeshares that last for generations.

Choose from 3 spacious unit types, enjoy affordable ownership, and secure your vacation spot in paradise for life.

Infini Launches New Menu 14 Following Its Five-Year Anniversary Celebration

Infini has officially launched Menu 14, a special edition menu unveiled in celebration of the restaurant's five-year anniversary. The new menu revisits guests' favorite dishes from the past five years, blending nostalgia with

fresh interpretations inspired by Infini's signature approach to modern gastronomy.

Infini stands for limitless possibilities, and Menu 14 perfectly embodies that philosophy. Crafted by Chef Urvin Croes, the menu celebrates innovation, creativity, and fearless exploration. Known for pushing boundaries through storytelling, technique, and flavor, Chef Urvin continues to redefine Aruba's fine dining scene. Infini's immersive chef's table concept invites guests to interact directly with the culinary team, transforming each dish into a chapter of an evolving narrative.

Before opening Infini, Chef Urvin honed his craft in Aruba's most prestigious hotel restaurants, rising from apprentice cook to Sous Chef, and gaining international experience at the Michelin-rated Grand Hotel Karel V in Europe. His mission has always been to position Aruba as a leading culinary destination by reimagining local recipes with modern techniques and artistic precision.

Dedicated to supporting local farmers and producers, Chef Urvin incorporates homegrown ingredients that reflect the island's rich food culture. His collaborations with these artisans are essential to Infini's distinctive culinary identity. With numerous awards to his name—including being crowned the first-ever Iron



Chef Aruba—Chef Urvin remains grounded in his passion, curiosity, and love for sharing Aruba's story through food.

Menu 14 invites diners to taste, explore, and rediscover Infini's journey while looking forward to the limitless possibilities ahead. Reservations are highly recommended to experience this new chapter in Infini's evolving culinary story. □



“Aruba to me is feeling carefree”

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Lynda Parker from Portland, Oregon.

She wrote to us saying: “Aruba to me is feeling carefree, wind in my hair, floating in the Caribbean with not even one care.”

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors



(Oranjestad)—CAYA, one of Aruba's most beloved dining destinations, continues to celebrate the vibrant essence of Latin Caribbean cuisine with an exciting new menu that beautifully balances tradition and innovation.

Nestled in a beautifully restored traditional Aruban Cunucu house, surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers guests a dining experience that feels both authentic and contemporary. The restaurant's philosophy is simple yet profound: to create a space where the warmth of island hospitality meets the creativity of modern gastronomy.

The new menu reflects this vision with a series

of inspired dishes that showcase the diversity of Caribbean and Latin American flavors. From Cuba to Colombia, and from Aruba to Mexico, each plate tells a story rooted in heritage and reimagined through CAYA's modern lens.

Among the standout new appetizers are the **Tuna al Tamarindo**, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind leche de tigre, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean comfort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfec-



tion and served with *chimi-churri espuma*.

The main courses bring equal excitement. Highlights include the **Chilean Sea Bass**, pan fried and served with a smooth carrot and *ají amarillo* sauce, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, grilled paksoi and broccoli, hearts of palm, toasted cashews, and a fragrant lime leaf vinaigrette. Another showstopper is the **Duck and Rice**, a Caribbean interpretation of a Peruvian classic, featuring pan fried duck breast with aromatic green rice infused with local herbs, kombucha, and *ají amarillo*, finished with a pan fried egg and *sarsa criolla*.

Dessert lovers are in for a treat as well. The **Caribbean Black Forest** reimagines the classic with a tropical twist, featuring a rich brownie served with red fruit, coconut mousse, chocolate, and banana rum ice cream. The **Merengon Tropical** delights with sage panna cotta, mango and pineapple compote, mango sorbet, and citrus meringue.

Guests can also enjoy CAYA's new *Sabor Experience*, a limited time three course menu priced at \$79, allowing diners to explore an appetizer, main course, and dessert of their choice.

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts live music every Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for an evening of island charm and culinary artistry.

CAYA continues to invite locals and visitors alike to experience the heart of Aruba, where Latin Caribbean heritage comes alive in every dish, every note of music, and every heartfelt welcome. □

Blackstone Beach



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the **Blackstone Beach** almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural

Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1 km hike towards Blackstone Beach. This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

1,200,000 Christmas Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

WILDER
Wednesday

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

\$1,000 in
Free Slot Play

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.
Play up to five times each Wednesday.

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
 Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
 The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
 Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
 Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
 Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
 Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
 Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" – is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this

beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center – it is free for all! □



Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

**Canadian in the house**

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory. English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).



Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode CCCXXXII-332

The Miracle at Alto Vista

Etnia Nativa celebrates the island's native ethnicity—linking our ancestral roots to survival knowledge, herbal wisdom, practical know-how, the ability to navigate by reading the stars, and the skill to predict the weather. These are the ways of our elders, passed down from their elders through unfathomable generations. Aruba's identity is deeply rooted in this ancestral heritage.

Imagine a landscape of scorching heat, dry thorny terrain, and no fresh water—and yet our ancestors thrived. Discover their world through this unique interaction. Participate in a one-of-a-kind private experience that offers a native perspective, one that both educates and inspires an “island caretaker and eco-defender” mindset.

Today, we share a chapter of the island's identity—one rooted not only in survival, but also in spirituality. In this episode, we journey into the heart of Aruba's Christmas faith, where devotion, tradition, and community illuminated the season long before electric lights ever did.

In early December, Aruba transforms into a dazzling Christmas celebration known locally as Pasco. Streets glow with decorations that sparkle through the night. Yet this vibrant tradition is relatively new; the island's history of Christmas reaches much further back—beginning when the Spaniards introduced the Bible in the mid-18th century, long before electricity arrived.

Before Christmas lights decorated Aruba, people awaited the holiday with deep anticipation, holding dearly to cherished customs. Families cleaned and painted their homes, and one beautiful tradition involved tying three aloe leaves with a bright red ribbon and hanging them above doors and windows—an amulet meant to welcome the ever-living spirits of peace and harmony into their homes.

Families gathered to share beloved dishes such as Christmas ham, ayaca (a type of tamale), goat stew, stuffed turkey, oliebollen, and delicious blends of Dutch and local desserts. They warmed their spirits with chuculati di pinda, a comforting blend of hot milk, honey, and ground peanuts, or they cheered with cream punch. At dawn, they faithfully attended the Aurora Mass, celebrated with the first light of day. Aurora symbolizes the blessed sunrise—the divine light emerging from the East, a reminder of hope revealed rather than hidden.

The ideal spot for this daybreak ceremony was on the island's north coast, where the chapel of Alto Vista now stands, considered the cradle of Aruba's Mestizo Christian faith. Today it attracts visitors from around the world, yet for locals it remains a sanctuary of tranquility—a place for spiritual grounding, rich in historical traditions of faith.



An old island manuscript from December 1760 recounts the final days of an elderly community member named Antonio Gregorio, a resident of the Alto Vista area—a story of unwavering faith. Deeply devout and gravely ill, Antonio feared he would die without receiving the holy sacraments. His greatest wish was to be spiritually prepared before his passing. He begged his family and neighbors to pray that a priest would reach Alto Vista in time—an urgent plea, as there was no priest on the island.

In the days leading up to Christmas Eve, the community gathered each night at the chapel to pray for him. As Antonio weakened, he remained steadfast, urging the prosecutor of Alto Vista and all the residents to prepare for Christmas with devotion, trusting that God would not abandon him.

After eight days of prayer, and still no news of a priest, a miracle occurred at dawn. A group of horsemen appeared, led by Guillermo, a longtime resident returning from Venezuela—and with him rode Father Maximiliano. Joy swept through the community as neighbors rushed to tell Antonio that his prayers had been answered. Father Maximiliano dressed in his vestments and immediately went to Antonio's bedside, heard his confession, and promised to administer the Last Rites at dawn to give the moment

greater solemnity. Overwhelmed by the significance of the event, the prosecutor raised two flags to signal that something extraordinary was happening, drawing people from across the region.

At midnight, Father Maximiliano celebrated his first Dawn Mass on the island. Afterward, the people lit torches and accompanied him to Antonio's home, where he anointed the dying man with the Holy Oils. Later that day, as the priest prepared for an afternoon procession, a messenger arrived urgently: Antonio was near death. Father Maximiliano returned with several neighbors and knelt beside him in prayer.

Surrounded by his community, Antonio suddenly sat up, stretched out his arms, and cried out for God's mercy, asking to be received into His divine presence. Moments later, he passed away peacefully on Christmas Day, having received the sacraments he had longed for. □

If you've enjoyed discovering our ancestral stories and wish to delve deeper into the true Aruba, we invite you to experience Etnia Nativa—the only “living museum” of its kind, celebrating the island's rich mestizo heritage (cultural blending). Visits are by appointment only: Contact us by WhatsApp+297 592 2702 or mail etnianaativa03@gmail.com for details.

Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 47 Cart
1 Taken — pullers (surprised)
6 Of the kidneys
11 Praline nut
12 Sports venue
13 Tick off
14 Burger part
15 Heaps
17 Bro's sibling
18 Chihuahua, for one
22 Leslie Caron film
23 Jazz pianist Garner
27 Less friendly
29 Mideast peninsula
30 Paris subways
32 Letter after epsilon
33 More disreputable
35 — Vegas
38 Boat part
39 Entertain
41 Human, for one
45 "Water Lilies" painter
46 Christopher of "Superman"

DOWN

- 1 Phone download
2 Hive dweller
3 Star pitcher
4 Cleveland cagers
5 Ring
6 Toronto cagers
7 History stretch
8 Brooklyn cagers
9 Opposed
10 Puts down
16 Poem of praise
18 Narrow
19 Maze runners
20 Stepped down
21 Memphis cagers
24 "Dedicated to the — Love"
25 Past due
26 Deceitful person
28 Houston cagers
31 Take to court
34 Horse's cousin
35 Tibetan monk
36 Singer
37 Phoenix cagers
40 Spot
42 Energy
43 Genesis woman
44 Cub's cave

R	A	C	E	D	I	S	A	A	C
A	B	O	V	E	M	A	L	T	A
G	R	U	E	L	P	O	U	T	S
T	A	P	S	I	N	M	I	T	
A	D	O	C	A	D	E	N	C	E
G	E	N	I	B	E	R	I	A	
		C	O	O	L	S			
K	A	B	U	K	I	M	A	P	
W	I	N	D	S	O	R	A	L	L
A	N	G		V	I	R	I	L	E
I	G	L	O	O		O	I	L	E
S	M	E	A	R		U	S	I	N
T	E	S	T	S		S	E	N	S

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
			15		16			17	
18	19	20				21			
22				23		24	25	26	
27				28		29			
30					31		32		
			33		34				
35	36	37		38					
39			40		41	42	43	44	
45					46				
47					48				

12-11

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

R T C I Q V U U W C N R K R X C N W

G T T K W B Z G U A Y C A W K V E

V T A F U V X C T B K E C W K .

— V T O G K I K G U V T A - B W C R P X

ryptoquote: I'M IN A GOOD PLACE
RIGHT NOW. NOT EMOTIONALLY — I'M JUST ON
ROLLER SKATES. — UNKNOWN

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 01 - 07 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	01	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	C	1
TUE	02	ROTTERDAM	07.00	****	B	1
		AIDAMAR	08.00	18.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	03	ROTTERDAM - Dept.	****	17.00	B	
		BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	04	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CORAL PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	C	1
		SEABOURN OVATION	09.00	22.00	I	1
		SILVER SHADOW	08.00	18.00	H	1
FRI	05	CARNIVAL LIBERTY	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	06	KONINGS DAM	07.00	16.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		STAR CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	G	1
SUN	07	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	8	2		7				
7			9	1	5	2		8
		5	6		2			
8	4				1			
9			5		8	1	3	
					4	9	8	
5	2					3		1
	7	4	1	3	9	8		5
3			2		6	4		

Difficulty: ★★

12/2

Answer to previous puzzle

8	2	6	5	7	9	3	1	4
1	4	9	8	6	3	7	2	5
7	3	5	2	4	1	8	9	6
6	1	7	9	8	5	2	4	3
2	9	4	3	1	7	6	5	8
3	5	8	6	2	4	1	7	9
9	8	2	7	5	6	4	3	1
5	7	1	4	3	8	9	6	2
4	6	3	1	9	2	5	8	7

Difficulty: ★

12/1



Sloths sleep at the Emilio Goeldi Museum during the COP30 U.N. Climate Summit, Nov. 13, 2025, in Belem, Brazil.

Associated Press.

The growing exotic pet trade drives illegal sales online and a push for tighter rules

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

A growing exotic pet trade has conservationists calling for stronger regulations to protect the reptiles, birds and other animals in the wild that are increasingly showing up for sale on internet marketplaces and becoming popular on social media. The two-week Convention on International Trade in En-

dangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is scheduled to run through Friday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Several proposals related to the pet trade will be considered this week. Participants have proposed tighter regulations or complete bans on the trade of several species including iguanas from the Galápagos Islands, more than a dozen species of Latin America tarantulas and an odd-looking turtle from Africa.

"What we're seeing is the pet trade much more looking at reptiles, amphibians. People want rare species and they don't have to go into a pet shop," said Susan Lieberman, vice president for international policy at the nonprofit Wildlife Conservation Society. □

CLASSIFIEDS

Le Vent

Eagle beach
2 BR 2 1/2 bath
3 rd floor ocean view
Price :\$1,250,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Appartments complex

Under construction
Monserrat Noord
5 min walk to palm beach
2x 2 BR 1 bath and 3x 1 BR 1 bath
602 m2 commercial land
Price turn key :\$1,000,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Beach

Commercial land to build
12 office spaces (Map approved)
6 ground floor 6 1st floor
2630,92 m2 (53,820 sq feet)
Price :\$750,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

San Fuego near Natural Park
3 BR 3 Bath with 1 restroom
Pool on a property land 4136 m2
Price :\$1,300,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

Washington Noord
5 min drive to palm / eagle beach
3 BR 3 bath with 2 apartment
With pool
Price :\$700,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club

Palm beach
Gold season
3 BR 3 Bath ocean view
Sleep 12
Price :\$ 25,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites

Private islands
Christmas week
1 BR WK 51 room # 2136
Ground floor garden view
Price :\$14,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle beach
1 BR Room # 2258
21 weeks remaining
Price :\$10,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle beach
1 BR week 52 room # 3308
16 weeks remaining \$10,000
1 BR week 01 room # 3208
9 weeks remaining \$8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For rent

Divi village golf
Eagle beach
1 BR sleep 4
Date : 13 December to 20 December
2025
Price :\$2000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott surf club

Palm beach
2 BR 2 bath sleep 8
Ocean front
Date :15 December to 22 December
2025
Price :\$4000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Time - share owners

Are you interested in sell
Your Time - share in Aruba
Call the expert
40 years doing business
Free appraisal and advertisement
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores

Richard Brooks

Angenette Figuereo

Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

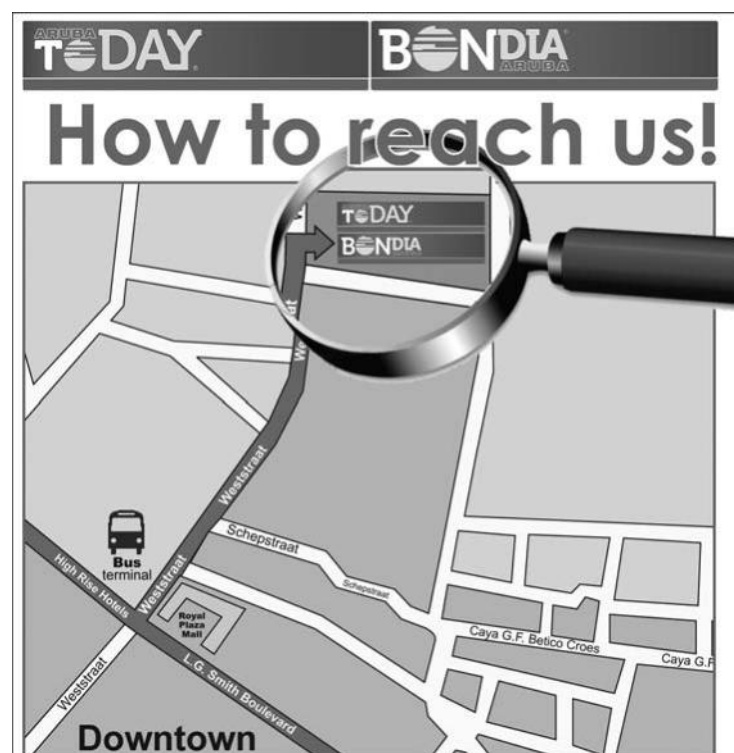
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

f @ArubaTodayNews



King Charles III's charity auctions Christmas stockings made from Sandringham drapes

By **DANICA KIRKA**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Searching for a gift for that special royal watcher in your life? How about a Christmas stocking made from the drapes of King Charles III's Sandringham estate and handstitched by a sewing circle at Dumfries House in Scotland, where the king's charitable foundation works to preserve traditional skills and crafts? Deftly tugging their needles through the royal fabric, members of the Dumfries House Sewing Bee recently put the finishing touches on the festive decorations, which will be auctioned off to raise money for the King's Foundation. While the rain splattered against the windows of the 18th century mansion south of Glasgow, the women chatted amiably, hot drinks by their sides. "It's been absolutely great," said Christine Wilson, 72, a retired finance officer. "It's a great atmosphere in the



Christmas stockings created by members of the King's Foundation Sewing Bee group, which have been made using curtains repurposed from the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, are hung from the fireplace in the Yellow drawing room at Dumfries House, which is part of The King's Foundation near Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025.

sewing bee, a great group of friends, and we do a lot for charities as well." Wilson and her friends have created 25 of the stockings, each of which will be numbered to make them

unique. The final stocking, No. 25, will be given to the king as a Christmas gift. Proceeds of the auction, which runs through midnight on Dec. 12, will support the work of the foun-

dation, which provides training in practical skills such as hospitality and animal husbandry for more than 15,000 young people each year. "We hope that whoever is

Associated Press.

lucky enough to win one of the stockings at auction will pass it down as a family heirloom to be treasured for decades to come," said Sarah McClymont, the lead tutor for the foundation's Future Textiles initiative. This is the third auction held by the foundation in recent years. The project began in 2023, when the charity created a range of kimono jackets from curtains that once hung in Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. In 2024, students from the furniture school at Highgrove Gardens, part of the king's private residence in western England, crafted footstools upholstered with fabric from still more curtains that once hung at the palace and castle. There's no need to worry about the royal windows being stripped bare, though. Buckingham Palace alone has 760 windows, creating a near-limitless supply of gently used fabric. □

Minimalist Prada buys maximalist Versace for \$1.4 billion, in bid to relaunch sexier Milan rival

By **COLLEEN BARRY**
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — The Prada Group closed the purchase of Milan fashion rival Versace in a \$1.375 billion cash deal that puts the fashion house known for its sexy silhouettes under the same roof as Prada's "ugly chic" aesthetic and Miu Miu's youth-driven appeal. The highly anticipated deal is expected to relaunch Versace's fortunes, after middling post-pandemic performance as part of the U.S. luxury group Capri Holdings. Prada said in a one-line statement that the acquisition had been completed after receiving all regulatory clearances. Capri Holdings, which owns Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo, said the money would be used to pay down debt. Donatella Versace welcomed the deal in an Instagram post, which also marked the birthday of the

brand's late founder, her brother, Gianni Versace. "Today is your day and the day Versace joins the Prada family. I am thinking of the smile you would have had on your face," she wrote in a post that also featured a 1996 photo of Gianni Versace with Miuccia Prada. Versace's future Prada heir Lorenzo Bertelli is

set to steer Versace's next phase as executive chairman, in addition to his roles as group marketing director and sustainability chief. The son of co-creative director Miuccia Prada and longtime Prada Group chairman Patrizio Bertelli has said he doesn't expect to make any swift executive changes at Versace, although he also noted

that the company, which is among the top 10 most recognized brands in the world, has long been underperforming in the market. Prada has underlined that the 47-year-old Versace brand offered "significant untapped growth potential." The appeal of the deal is that it combines "the minimalist Prada (with) a maximalist Versace," said Luca Solca, managing director for the luxury sector at the Sanford C. Bernstein research firm, meaning that the brands don't compete for the same customers. Versace is "long past its heyday," Solca said. "The challenge and the opportunity is to make it relevant again... They are going to have to invent something which is going to make the brand attractive, desirable and interesting again." Versace already has begun a creative relaunch

under a new designer, Dario Vitale, who previewed his first collection during Milan Fashion Week in September. He was previously head of design at Miu Miu, but his move to Versace was unrelated to the Prada deal, executives have said. The runway show received mixed reviews, but the collection itself a colorful, revealing riff on the 1980s got good feedback from buyers. "I think that this seems to be a promising first step," Solca said. Breaking from the past Capri Holdings paid \$2 billion for Versace in 2018, but had been struggling to position the brands' bold profile in the recent era of "quiet luxury." Capri Holdings chairman John D. Idol said in a statement that "Prada is the ideal partner to guide this celebrated luxury house into its next era of growth." □



A leather good operator works at the Prada factory in Scandicci, Italy, Friday, Nov. 28, 2025.

Associated Press.



All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms).
Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets.
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 2 Large Supermarkets.

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OR VISIT US.

Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697

+1 866 470 1411

Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: info@arubaqualityapartments.com | Whatsapp: (297) 593 9647
Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Serena Williams has taken the first step toward a comeback to tennis by registering for drug tests

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

Serena Williams has taken the first step that would be required ahead of a comeback to tennis, registering with the sport's drug-testing body, a spokesman for the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said Tuesday. The 23-time Grand Slam champion, one of the greats of the game, has not competed since bidding farewell at the 2022 U.S. Open. At the time, Williams said she didn't want to use the word "retiring" and instead declared that she was "evolving" away from tennis. It was not immediately clear when or where or even if Williams actually will play again. Her agent did not immediately return a request for comment.

Williams, who is now 44, was one of the biggest stars of any sport, a dominant talent on the court and still someone drawing



Serena Williams acknowledges the crowd after losing to Ajla Tomljanovic, of Australia, in the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sept. 2, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press.

attention away from it. If she does end up returning to the tour, it would be a significant story line.

Her decision to place her

name back in the testing pool with the ITIA, which oversees anti-doping and anti-corruption efforts, was first reported by Bounces.

"She is on the list and back in the testing pool," ITIA spokesman Adrian Bassett wrote to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Athletes returning to testing need to provide information on their whereabouts details on their location when they are not at an official event and times when they are available to give samples. Someone who retires while they are on the list and later comes back needs to be available for testing for six months before they are allowed to return to competition.

Williams' older sister, Venus, returned to competition this July at age 45 after nearly 1 1/2 years away from the tour; she never had announced her retirement. At the U.S. Open, Venus became the oldest player to play singles at the American Grand Slam tournament since 1981.

When Venus, a seven-time major singles champion, came back at the DC Open, she spoke about wishing Serena would join her back on tour. □

Hadjar to partner Verstappen at Red Bull in 2026 as Tsunoda loses F1 seat

By **JAMES ELLINGWORTH**
AP Sports Writer

Isack Hadjar will team up with his childhood hero Max Verstappen at Red Bull next year after an impressive rookie season, while Yuki Tsunoda has lost his Formula 1 seat following a tough season. Also, 18-year-old British driver Arvid Lindblad will debut for Racing Bulls. French driver Hadjar was rewarded on Tuesday for a debut campaign which has seen him regularly outpace teammate Liam Lawson at Racing Bulls. The highlight so far was the 21-year-old Hadjar's third-place finish at the Dutch Grand Prix, which made him the fifth young-

est podium finisher in F1 history. "It's an awesome move, to work with the best and learn from Max is something I can't wait for," Hadjar said in a statement. Lindblad will be the only rookie driver on the grid next year as the F2 driver takes Hadjar's old Racing Bulls seat alongside Lawson.

Hadjar's tough task

Hadjar has the daunting task of keeping up with Verstappen, who will have his fourth different teammate in just over a year. As Verstappen cycles through teammates, the Red Bull car has developed a reputation for being difficult to handle for anyone other

than the Dutch defending champion. After Red Bull dropped Sergio Perez at

the end of 2024, New Zealander Lawson lasted just two races before being



Racing Bulls driver Isack Hadjar of France walks through the paddock at the Lusail International Circuit ahead of the Qatar Formula One Grand Prix, in Lusail, Qatar, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025.

Associated Press.

sent back to Racing Bulls and Japan's Tsunoda was promoted in his place.

Tsunoda has a best finish of sixth in 21 races for Red Bull. Verstappen has won seven in that time ahead of Sunday's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. He's been in F1 for five seasons but has yet to finish on the podium and has a tendency to vent his frustrations over the radio. Tsunoda stays with Red Bull as a reserve driver. The decision to drop Tsunoda comes at the same time as Red Bull starts a new engine partnership with Ford instead of Honda, which backed Tsunoda during his junior career. □

Tiger Woods dealing with uncertain times with his golf, the Ryder Cup and reshaping the PGA

Associated Press

So much about the future of Tiger Woods is uncertain. Woods said Tuesday in the Bahamas he has just been cleared to chip and putt since a seventh back surgery on Oct. 10. He is not playing in his Hero World Challenge and said he won't be playing in the PNC Championship in two weeks with his son. Even the indoor TGL League will have to wait.

"Unfortunately, I've been through this rehab process before," Woods said. "It's just step by step. Once I get a feel for practicing, exploding, playing, the recovery process, then I can assess where I'm going to play and how much I'll play."

As for the Ryder Cup, he turned down the captaincy for this year and was thought to be the logical choice for Adare Manor in Ireland in 2027.

"No one's asked me about it," Woods said and then repeated it for effect.

That's not to say there hasn't been plenty of discussions between the PGA of America and Woods' manager. Woods can say a lot with few words. Translation: He's not ready to talk about that yet.

What's consuming his time is the one area that doesn't involve birdies and bogeys, and it might be far more important than whether he tees it up at the Masters or joins the 50-and-older cir-



Tiger Woods, of the United States, walks to the 18th green during the second round of the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Troon golf club in Troon, Scotland, July 19, 2024.

Associated Press.

cuit on the PGA Tour Champions a few times next year. Woods is chair of the Future Competitions Committee, which new CEO Brian Rolapp commissioned to make significant change to the PGA Tour. Woods said the committee has met three times and taken input from everyone from title sponsors to television to tournament directors.

What began as a blank sheet of paper now has a thousand ideas. The hope is to have a new model by the start of the 2027 season. What emerges is unclear except it will be uncomfortable. Change isn't easily accepted.

"Yes, there's going to be some eggs that are spilled and crushed and broken," Woods said. "But I think that in the end, we're going to have a product that is far better than what we have now for everyone involved."

The three principles driving Rolapp's vision are parity, simplicity and scarcity.

It's the scarcity that has so many players nervous fewer tournaments, shorter fields, slimmer odds for players who can't just show up and expect to contend the way Woods once did, and the way Scottie Scheffler does now.

"But don't forget, the golf-

ing year is long," Woods said. "So there's other opportunities and other places around the world or other places to play that can be created and have events. So there's a scarcity side of it that's not as scary as people might think."

Rolapp also soothed some concerns about a star-driven tour when he said on the CNBC "CEO Council Forum" last week, "Every sport has stars."

What really makes sports work is the middle class. ... You cannot build a lifelong sport that outlives the stars if you don't build a system that works beyond your stars."

There was nothing middle class about Woods.

His legacy will be 82 titles on the PGA Tour, his 15 majors, the only player to hold all four major championships at the same time, the player who went more than seven years without missing a cut. And now, his leadership on a committee to reshape the PGA Tour could add to that.

Woods is motivated to play again because he simply loves golf. That chapter is not over.

This will be the first year without competing in a PGA Tour-sanctioned tournament since he made his debut in 1992 at age 16 in the Los Angeles Open (he played the PNC Championship in 2021 after missing the entire season after his car crash in Los Angeles).

Woods lost his mother in February. He ruptured his Achilles tendon in March. And then came another back surgery in October. So when he was asked why he wanted to stage yet another comeback, Woods smiled and replied, "Come back to what point?"

"I'd like to come back to just playing golf again," Woods said.

His last documented round was Feb. 9 with President Donald Trump. "I've had a lot of things happen on and off the golf course that's been tough. And so my passion to just play, I haven't done that in a long time. Just play." □



Conor Benn celebrates at the final bell of a middleweight bout against Chris Eubank Jr., Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, in London.

Associated Press.

Conor Benn eyes WBC welterweight title shot after being made No. 1 challenger

Associated Press.

LONDON (AP) — Conor Benn announced he has been made the No. 1 challenger for the WBC welterweight world title held by Mario Barrios.

The 29-year-old London native moved up three spots in the rankings, including above Manny Pacquiao.

Barrios is expected to fight Ryan Garcia in February. The challenger recently announced that the title bout was signed.

"Just got the news I've been made No. 1 in the WBC rankings, mandatory for the WBC world title," Benn said Tuesday in a social media post.

"I'll be watching Barrios vs. Garcia close-

ly," he added. "I want the winner early next year. I'll be coming for that belt and Britain will have a new world champion."

Barrios retained his belt with a majority draw against the 46-year-old Pacquiao in July. Benn is coming off a 12-round unanimous decision victory over Chris Eubank Jr. in the middleweight division. It was a rematch of their first fight, which Benn lost in April.

After last month's win, Benn said he would return to welterweight (147 lbs) to pursue a world title. His father, Nigel Benn, was a WBC champion at super middleweight in the 1990s. □